

INK

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Rams rookie invasion

See page 7 for full story



Noah Picton, quarterback at Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School, is one of the recent Uof R Rams recruits. Photo by Arielle Zerr

Snowfalls may cause stress on local snow dump

Julia Dima
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Six storms, tons of snow, and no end in sight.

A month in to winter, and Regina is already blanketed under 30 centimetres of snow, the result of six major snowfalls since November. Consequently, City of Regina road crews have been plowing roads constantly.

But where does all the snow go? Regina has a major snow dumping site on Fleet Street and McDonald Street, where the city has already dumped 600,000 cubic metres of snow following recent storms, according to Chris Warren, the city's winter maintenance manager.

The dump, which stretches over a large field across the highway from the landfill, receives all the plowed snow from the city. In the spring, the large quantity of snow can still be melting until June or July, as it did two years ago, when intense snowfall caused flooding in some parts the city.

A massive melt has both positive and negative effects for the city and surrounding area. Although the melt provides moisture, there are other materials dumped along with the snow, like salts, sands, car oils and litter. A containment system at the



A truck deposits snow at the Regina snow dump. Photo by Julia Dima

snow dump prevents any of these contaminants from entering soil and water systems.

Dena McMartin, an engineering professor at the University of Regina, says if containment at the dump failed, these dissolved materials could be dangerous.

"The salts are mobile in water, and can easily move into groundwater and surface water where it has to be removed before we can drink it. So there are negative environment and health impacts that are possible, but the City of Regina is containing their salts on site, so we shouldn't see any of those negative results, unless there's a spill or breach."

If there is a spill, according to Warren, a remediation, or removal of contaminants,

would have to occur.

"There's many different ways you can remediate the site, so you determine how you want to do it, generally by getting rid of the material or adding various chemicals or other additives into the soil to eliminate or reduce the contamination," he said.

So far a contamination hasn't happened yet, but after the major snowfall of 2010 and the heavy snowfalls this year, the city is being proactive.

"There's always ways we can look at monitoring certain things, and if we potentially see any drawbacks to a certain setup, we would want to take steps to minimize that," Warren said. "That's why we're going towards an engineered site that's set up by

a consultant and it's designed to handle maximum snowfall and to reduce any contamination to the environment."

In 2010, when Regina dealt with numerous spring floods, the dump was dealing with over one million cubic metres of snow, and with at least six weeks of winter to go, this year's heavy snowfall might top that number. Though the City isn't worried about contamination, it is planning for a more efficient system to deal with heavy snowfall. A plan for an engineered site can help prevent flooding and containment breaches, which as McMartin explained, could have negative environmental impacts on the soil and water.



The federal government has misplaced the personal information of more than half a million student loan borrowers. Photo by Braden Dupuis

Federal gov’t loses info of 583,000 students

Braden Dupuis
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Many past student loan recipients are left waiting and wondering following the federal government’s announcement last week that the personal information of more than half a million student loan borrowers has gone missing.

“When I found out I was on the list, it was like my heart just kind of stopped for a minute,” said Arielle Zerr, one of 583,000 student loan recipients from the period of 2000 to 2006 who may have had their privacy breached.

“I’ve done so many things in my life to build up my credit, to take extra care of how my information is put out into the world, and then to have the government just go and throw it out the window, almost literally, it’s completely disheartening,” she said.

The information in question, including the names, dates of birth, Social Insurance

Numbers, addresses and student loan balances of hundreds of thousands of Canadians, was stored on an unencrypted hard drive that went missing from a Human Resources and Skills Development Canada office in Gatineau, Que., in late 2012.

“There’s always things that are out of your control, but you expect the government to have safeguards in place to protect this from happening,” Zerr said.

“You would think that even if the hard drive was never meant to leave the building, that there should be security measures in place, at least some sort of encryption to prevent this from happening.”

And Zerr is not alone in that assumption. “I would absolutely assume that with anything government related that it would be mandatory with any sensitive data to have the hard drive encrypted,” said Mitch Rogers, a web security expert.

Encrypting something like an external hard drive is “not that difficult,” he said.

“Honestly, it’s just lack of attention. People just ... don’t pay attention, they don’t want to go through the headache or they don’t understand the technology themselves. They consider a password lock to be protection enough and, yeah, when you’re talking about people’s data, it’s just not.”

While government representatives were not immediately available for comment, Human Resources Canada addressed the privacy concerns of Canadians in a Jan. 11 news release.

“I want all Canadians to know that I have expressed my disappointment to departmental officials at this unacceptable and avoidable incident in handling Canadians’ personal information,” Diane Finley, minister of human resources and skills development, said in the release.

For now, there are some immediate steps that Canadians can take if they think their information may have been compromised.

“With name, SIN, date of birth, that’s really

all a thief would need to start applying for cell phones, credit cards, just about anything,” said Daniel Williams, a supervisor with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

“Once the thief has that much information, getting more info isn’t that difficult, so indeed all of these people affected should be notifying their banks, putting them on alert.” Williams also recommends getting in contact with Canadian credit bureaus like Equifax and TransUnion.

“You can put alerts on your name with those two companies, and that will warn creditors that, yes, your info is out there, and if it’s misused, there’s a much higher probability that the suspects will be unsuccessful than if you don’t put (out) the alert,” Williams said.

Human Resources Canada is sending letters to inform people who may be affected, and a toll-free number has been set up at 1-866-885-1866 to handle all related inquiries.



Recruits study at the Police College at the U of R. Photo by Iryn Tushabe

Spears, who comes from a family with a long policing background, hopes to graduate at the top of his class

“My father was a police officer for 30 years for the Ottawa Police Service and since I was a young child I always had a dream and passion to become a police officer,” said Spears, who was with the RPS for six months before being recruited as a trainee.

The recruits will go through 18 weeks of rigorous training which involves physical, academic and practical components.

According to Popowich, hiring someone for police service is a grueling process of scrutiny and testing.

“Already they’ve accomplished something by being hired and we certainly hope that they are successful at the college because that means that they’ll come back to us and continue their in-service training and then eventually go out on patrol on their own,” she said.

City proposes 4.45 per cent tax increase

Eric Bell
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The City of Regina is preparing for some serious renos, proposing a tax increase of 4.45 per cent in its 2013 budget.

If approved, taxes will increase \$63 for a home worth \$285,000, and \$99 for a home worth \$450,000.

Spending is proposed to rise across the board, with the total operating budget increasing from \$312.6 million in 2012 to \$339.5 million. The capital budget will grow by about \$18 million to \$84.3 million, an increase of over 28 per cent.

“One of the things the city has as a concern is to deliver the services citizens are expecting. Some of those services entail capital investment in the assets that we have,” said City of Regina director of finance Chuck McDonald, noting that the city’s infrastructure requires a significant amount of upgrading.

“Around \$2 billion is going to have to be spent for restoration, so it’s not going to happen immediately,” said McDonald. “The city is starting a plan in which we can narrow this funding gap.”

Plans for this year include \$37.8 million for road repairs and \$15 million to improve the city’s drainage system. The city is also planning to replace its wastewater treatment plant in 2014, at an estimated cost of \$207 million.

The city’s debt level is expected to reach \$110 million, and will see a decrease in its reserve fund, going from \$123 million to \$11.6 million.

Part of being able to maintain the services citizens expect also means looking for other sources of funding, as well as finding ways to curb spending from within the budget, said McDonald.

“There’s been a continuous process where we’re looking at ways to save on expenditures and to be more innovative in terms of the processes that we do, and if required look at new revenue sources, such as raising facility fees,” McDonald said.

Other budget highlights include \$69.2 million for the police service, \$40.3 million for fire services, \$8.8 million for upgrading city facilities, and \$3.2 million to implement a curbside recycling program.

McDonald notes that the 4.45 per cent tax increase is low compared to other cities, noting that taxes have increased on average 3.27 per cent over the past five years, compared to Saskatoon, where the average increase was 4.05 per cent. Saskatoon’s mill rate is set to increase by 4.99 per cent.

“I think the problems the city of Regina has stated, you would find that other municipalities across Canada have the same challenges,” McDonald said. “There’s a lot of services that citizens are expecting from their civic employees. We’ve got challenges and we’re doing our best to meet those and provide the best value we can to citizens.”

The City of Regina’s executive committee will meet to discuss the budget on Jan. 21, and will present the budget to city council in February.

How much will the property tax increase cost you?

Home worth \$200,000:
Tax increase of \$44

Home worth \$285,000:
Tax increase of \$63

Home worth \$450,000:
Tax increase of \$99



If approved, the City of Regina’s 2013 budget will increase taxes by 4.45 per cent. Photo by Eric Bell

Student clinic combats poverty and health problems

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In the heart of Regina’s North Central neighbourhood, students are running an after-hours clinic to fight health and poverty-related issues.

The Student Energy in Action for Regina Community Health (SEARCH) clinic resides in the Four Directions Community Health Centre on the corner of Elphinstone Street and 5th Avenue.

“There is an increase in (after-hours) services but SEARCH, I would say, is one of the first organizations within North Central to open its doors on a Saturday afternoon,” SEARCH chairperson Rikki Gusway said. “(The clinic) offers citizens of North Central the opportunity to see a doctor, to have a meal, to see a councillor, to take part in social programming, to learn about food, to learn how to prepare cheap, easy meals.”

Student volunteers from the University of Regina, First Nations University of Canada, University of Saskatchewan and SIAST help approximately 20 people every Saturday afternoon from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

There are two sections available to people accessing the clinic’s programs. One side provides medical services while the other side provides social programs.

Students use the interdisciplinary clinic for training in fields such as nursing,



Rikki Gusway is studying social work at the U of R. She is a chairperson for SEARCH, a local after-hours clinic that helps combat health and poverty issues. Photo by Kristen McEwen

social work, medicine, health studies, kinesiology, dental hygiene, physical therapy and human justice.

SEARCH is a sister clinic to the Student and Wellness Initiative Towards Community Health, or SWITCH, in Saskatoon. Some medical students from the University of Saskatchewan are placed at the SEARCH clinic.

One regular client is a grandmother who takes care of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Gusway said. Sometimes she would use money meant for

her own medication to care for her family instead.

“She’s so worried about everyone else that her (own) health care is constantly put on the backburner,” Gusway said.

According to Gusway, a grandmother giving everything she has for her family is the story of many other women and families who visit the clinic. The clinic also provides day care for clients.

Gusway and a few other members of SEARCH gave a lecture as part of the sixth annual Apathy in Action conference,

sponsored by the Regina Public Interest Research Group and held at the U of R on Thursday, Jan. 18.

The first half of the lecture was given by Dr. Ryan Meili of Saskatoon. Meili described how the relationship between poverty and health is a “social determinant of health.”

Income, education, employment, housing and nutrition are all factors that impact people with illnesses, he said, adding that these factors can also determine whether a person’s life is long or short.

Fewer police hired in Regina

Iryn Tushabe
@wordswearer

The current number of Regina Police Services recruits at the Saskatchewan Police College is the lowest it has been in a very long time.

Elizabeth Popowich has been the RPS spokesperson for 15 years and doesn’t remember it ever being lower than six officers.

The recruits are police services employees who have already been hired, and then are sent by their organizations to the University of Regina’s Saskatchewan Police College for training.

“We’ve definitely had more in the past. The numbers usually run from nine to 10 Regina Police Services members,” said Mitch Crumley, interim director and legal consultant of the college.

Last year, RPS sent seven recruits to the Police College.

According to Popowich, the number of recruits is tied to the needs of the organization.

“This year at this stage our requirement was just lower,” said Popowich.

Popowich cited a number of reasons why the number of recruits varies from time.

“In some years, we have more retirements or some people leave us for other employ-

ment. We require a higher number of recruits then,” she said.

Last year, the RPS was selected as one of Saskatchewan’s top employers for 2012 by the editors of Canada’s Top 100 employers.

However, the RPS has to stay within the budget that is authorized by the City of Regina and the Board of Police Commissioners.

According to the City Administration’s proposed 2013 budget, the Board of Police Commissioners recommends \$69.2 million for RPS operations, a \$3.5 million increase from the 2012 budget of \$65.7 million. However, this does not guarantee increased staffing.

“We are authorized to have 392 police officers in our service and 147 civilians so we have to stay within those numbers,” Popowich said.

“In a perfect world, you’d always have more resources to do what you’d like to do, but realistically we have to work within a budget and we think we’ve got the right number of officers given the number of criminal code incidences reported by the city each year,” said Popowich.

Cst. Gerald Spear, one of the three RPS recruits, said a larger group of people was interviewed but only three were selected.

Idle No More hits Regina



Unity Walk participants hold a rounddance on Albert Street bridge in Regina. Photo by Penny Smoke

Penny Smoke
@Onecent4u

The Treaty Four Grassroots Movement held a Unity Walk in Regina on Jan. 16. About 100 people attended the event. This Unity Walk represented a continuation of events planned in other major cities in Canada in support of the Idle No More movement.

“The idea behind it is to continue to unite the community and to support this movement,” explained Shawna Oochoo, one of the seven organizers of the Treaty Four Grassroots movement.

“I just want to make it perfectly clear that we are not two separate groups; who we are (Treaty Four Grassroots) is a collection of individuals from the Treaty Four area who organize events in the Regina area, which are Idle No More events.”

“We want to raise awareness and educate the general public that this movement is still strong, and is going strong - and that we are in full support of it,” Oochoo added.

The walk began with a prayer by a local Elder and proceeded down Albert Street, at times causing traffic to back up for blocks.

“It’s not good for us; we will not reach the office on time but it should not take too much time,” said motorist Samir Soni, whose car was stopped by the walk on his way back to work.

At one point the walkers blocked both lanes of traffic on the Albert Street bridge with a round dance, but stopping traffic was not their main goal.

Once at the legislative building there was another round dance held as speeches were given.

The Idle No More movement is a grassroots movement that has been driven to stop the huge omnibus budget bill passed by Parliament on Dec. 5, and by Senate Dec. 14.

It imposes on water protection laws, and is a fast-track for resource development, which many believe will have negative effects on the environment.

Rallies and protest have been happening from coast to coast since Idle No More began two months ago. The issues are now gaining support from environmentalist and other Indigenous groups around the world.

The Idle No More movement was founded by four Saskatchewan women and has grown to a global level.

Driven by the power of social media, the Idle No More movement has gone viral and pictures of support coming have flooded Facebook from countries all over the world.

More events supporting Idle No More are in the works, with a National Day of Action set for Jan. 28.



The Idle No More-Unity Walk begins on 5th Avenue and Osler Street. Photo by Penny Smoke



Father and son James and Cliff Davis, from Peepeekisis First Nation, take part in the Regina Unity walk. Photo by Penny Smoke



An officer from the Regina Police Service stops traffic for the walk. Photo by Penny Smoke

Nuclear waste project controversial

Shinoah Young
@ShinoahKihew

A nuclear waste project may be an asset to Saskatchewan’s booming economy, but many are worried about the negative impacts nuclear waste has on the environment.

The construction of an underground demonstration facility and deep geological repository is a future possibility.

The project involves transporting nearly six hockey rinks full of nuclear waste from Ontario to Saskatchewan over the course of 25 to 30 years. Lac La Ronge is considering the project.

The communities of English River First Nation, Creighton and Pine House are being considered as potential sites for the nuclear waste project.

“The benefits are countless just because the economy will boost significantly. It would be almost a totally new mine, which brings in everything from housing to infrastructure to countless jobs,”

said Joy Capyk, a clerk for the town of Creighton.

Capyk also works as a liaison and administrative assistant for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. The NWMO is in the third step of a nine-step phase to approve the building of a nuclear depository plant in northern Saskatchewan.

“We’ve had a NWMO consultant come up to Creighton because they have to figure out if the area they’re looking at is feasible for it and if it could handle such economic boom,” said Capyk.

“This is a good 10-year process and the ground rock still needs testing. It’s a very slow process and it’s a large project and we’re going to need more resources. We have to employ more doctors and there needs to be more housing,” said Capyk.

Marie Sanderson, a University of Regina student and member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, does not approve of the nuclear project in her community and was angered when a friend told her of the

NWMO plans.

“I think they’re creating environmental destruction and they’re ruining future generations lives. It’s going to cause cancer and health problems. That’s all it is about is money, but money won’t matter if your kids are born mutants,” said Sanderson.

“There are already mutated effects on wildlife up north just from the oil companies because of deforestation and the destruction of our land,” said student Jared Kaye. “It’s absorbed by our water systems underground which contaminates the whole Hudson Bay basin or Rupert’s Land and I don’t think anyone has the right to put that sort of monetary value on our native land.”

There are 21 communities in Saskatchewan and Ontario that are current contenders for the project. The project would create more than 1,200 new jobs over the course of a 70-year span.

It will take up to 10 years to decide where the nuclear waste depository will be built. If the project is approved, the esti-

mated start date for construction is 2035.

“It’s a large national infrastructure project that will be transformational for any region that it’s located in,” said Mike Krizanc, Spokesman for NWMO.



Marie Sanderson, a University of Regina student and member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, does not approve of the nuclear project in her community. Photo by Shinoah Young

Canada’s concern for Mali



Martin Hewson sits in his office at the U of R. Photo by Chelan Skulski

Chelan Skulski
@ChelanSki

As the crisis in Mali turns to chaos, Canadians wonder how their country will be involved. Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced Jan. 14 that Canada would offer the French military the use of a C-17 transport plane and 35 peacekeeping personnel in Bamako, Mali’s capital. France has requested Britain and Canada’s assistance in Mali due to a growing concern of Islamic fundamentalism and al-Qaeda-linked rebel groups gaining control of the northern region of the African country. Mali has been in a state of turmoil since March 2012, when the government was overthrown by rebel forces. Tension between north and south Mali, the Sehah droughts and turmoil in neighboring countries in the

aftermath of the Arab Spring led to the government’s collapse. Jesse Thompson, director of humanitarian assistance for CARE Canada, explained how the heightened chaos in the country has affected the NGO. “We had offices throughout the country but for the time being we have suspended our activities until the end of January, just until we can see how the situation evolves and have a better understanding of the security situations so we can make informed decisions about our staff,” Thompson said. CARE Canada has been providing Mali aid assistance throughout the country for over 30 years. “The people of northern Mali are really stressed beyond their limits, both because of the food crisis, and the political crisis so we really have to act quickly to provide life-saving

food, shelter, health, hygiene support to ensure that those urgent needs are met really as soon as possible,” she said. The organization is hopeful to have offices re-open within the next few weeks. However, there is much uncertainty about the future. Thompson emphasized her appreciation for the Canadian government’s assistance to CARE’s work. “Canada has been very generous in the support of the humanitarian response, providing funding to CARE in order to continue to respond to the (international displaced peoples) situation and the situation of the people affected by the drought,” said Thompson. Experts question Canada’s potential involvement within the country. Martin Hewson, a University of Regina political science professor with a background in international affairs, acknowledges that although Canadian resources

to assist the French will be helpful, Canadian troops on the ground will not resolve the issue. “I think a much better thing than getting sucked or dragged into war in Mali is to try to pressure the Mali government to come to a deal with these rebels and to give them some kind of autonomy. For years and years they demanded their own autonomy; they wanted their own self rule,” said Hewson. Canadian peacekeeping troops and a C-17 aircraft departed to Mali the afternoon of Jan 15.

GET THE FACTS

- Mali, officially known as the Republic of Mali, is located in West Africa and bordered by Niger, Algeria, and Guinea.**
- Mali has a population of 14.5 million.**
- The country’s first democratic, multi-party presidential election was held in 1992. After two more successful elections, the country became known as one of Africa’s more politically and socially stable countries.**
- Mali is home to many ethnic groups. One particular group, residing in the North of the country, is the Tuareg. The Tuareg, also known as the “blue people” because the colour the robes and turbans leave on their skin, have lived in opposition of the Mali government for centuries.**
- In March 2012, Tuareg groups in northern Mali lead a coup taking down the current government lead by President Amadou Toumani Toure.**
- Slavery still exists in Mali; an estimated 200,000 people live as slaves.**

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Getzlaf tackles pet problem

Lauren Golosky
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It’s off-season for the Saskatchewan Roughriders and many players are escaping the cold for a warmer climate. But it’s not just fun in the sun for everyone. Saskatchewan Roughriders slotback Chris Getzlaf went south to Cancun, Mexico, to work with Cats and Dogs International on Jan. 12. CANDI is an organization that sterilizes stray cats and dogs in Mexico and the Caribbean, which have large stray animal populations. Getzlaf, who is also a financial consultant in Regina, usually spends his off-season working, volunteering for the Red Cross, and making appearances with the Riders. But when Winnipeg Blue Bomber Chris Cvetkovic approached him about CANDI, Getzlaf got involved. “It’s a great way to get out of the cold and help a really good cause down here,” Getzlaf said via Skype from Mexico. “I think dogs outnumber humans two-to-one down here and it’s an eye-opener when you’re driving around up and down the streets and you see dogs walking everywhere.” Tourists can relate. Vacationers often complain of mangy strays wandering the streets outside of their pristine resorts. It is estimated that Cancun has over one million

stray dogs. At CANDI’s sterilization clinic in Bonfil, Mexico, Getzlaf has been helping the veterinary technicians prep the dogs for surgery and using his football size and stature to help carry dogs in and out of surgery. For Getzlaf, who owns a seven-year-old pit bull in Regina, the experience of “seeing everyone come together” has been rewarding. “You see a lot of dogs come in that are in pretty bad shape and after they come in and they go through their spay or neuter, and they go through recovery where they get all cleaned up, you see how they can actually turn out if they have some proper care and attention.” Although Getzlaf said it is gratifying to see the transformation of stray dogs into healthy ones, some of which are even adopted, not all stories he has to take home are happy. “We had to go and try and rescue a dog that had been hit by a car and we got her back to the clinic,” he said. “But she had to be put down. That part is real sad.” Despite the challenges of working in impoverished areas, lifelong animal lover Getzlaf is enjoying the journey. “I didn’t know it was going to hit home as much as it did to be honest,” he said. More information about CANDI can be found at www.candiinternational.org.

URSU changes ancient poster policy

Dietrich Neu
@DietrichNeu

The University of Regina Students’ Union is looking to make sweeping changes to its policies across the board. The first on the chopping block: a controversial poster policy that operated under vague language, and made it unclear why some posters were blocked and some were not. URSU announced Jan. 14 that a new policy is now in place and will be more inclusive – however, one event organizer disputes this. “One of the things that we noticed right away when we came in was that many of our policies and bylaws were out of date,” said Nathan Sgrazzutti, URSU president. “It quickly became apparent to us that one of the most out of date was the poster policy. The policy was broad. There were issues where we wouldn’t be able to support certain campus events because they didn’t fit within the old, outdated, policy.” Under the old policy, students hosting events in licensed establishments outside of The Owl were not allowed to post promotional material on URSU’s poster boards around campus. This created a conflict of

interest: in many cases URSU could not support its students and the bar at the same time. URSU denied several poster applications in order to protect The Owl and ensure the bar turns a profit. Last year, URSU had a \$202,484 deficit at year end, \$157,890 of that was from The Owl. URSU’s new policy changed the game a bit. Campus clubs and president’s advisory committees can now advertise events held at licensed and unlicensed non-profit venues all over the city, such as the Gay & Lesbian Community of Regina Nightclub. They can also advertise events held at for-profit venues, but the number of posters is reduced and the club or society must pay a fee. Off-campus organizations can also hang posters, but a fee is required in most instances. “Our idea was that we needed to make it so that instead of this black and white thing we had where it was ‘either you’re for The Owl or against!’ We’ve changed it to reflect our understanding that there are a multitude of situations where we should be showing support,” Sgrazzutti said. However, not all students are happy with the new arrangement. Dane Imrie, a second-year business student, runs a monthly comedy show at the Cultural Exchange called Pass



Students can now advertise events that are held off campus. Photo by Dietrich Neu The Hat. Imrie’s show consists of amateur comics, several of whom are U of R students, who take turns trying out short comedy routines. Imrie advertised his events on URSU poster boards until November, when he was told he could no longer do so. Imrie was a student, but the Exchange was technically considered in competition with The Owl – a venue that requires URSU’s protection. Imrie waited months for the new changes

in policy that happened Jan. 14. He appreciates the effort, but the new changes still leave Pass The Hat in the dark. The Exchange is a licensed non-profit organization, and Imrie must pay \$10 per poster because the event is happening off-campus. “My venue is classified as a theatre, and honestly, it isn’t in competition with The Owl in any way. We do sell booze, but so does every place in this city. I don’t get enough value off one poster to pay 10 bucks for it,” he said.

Rams ready 12 rookies



Rams head coach Frank McCrystal addresses the media with 10 of the Rams’ newest rookies. Photo by Arielle Zerr

Arielle Zerr
@arielle_zerr

After a strong showing in the 2012 season that ended with an appearance in the Hardy Cup, the University of Regina Rams are actively recruiting Canada’s best high school football stars. With 20 Regina Rams, 14 of whom are starters, moving on from the program, including star Quarterback Marc Mueller, the Rams have some big shoes to fill. Twelve new players had signed letters of intent with the Rams as of Jan. 16, agreeing to cease any current or future talks with other Canadian Interuniversity Sport football teams. Rams head coach Frank McCrystal is optimistic about his new players. “The people we recruit are very, very good players,” McCrystal said. “They are guys who have impacted their leagues and their football teams. Many of them have been most valuable players in the leagues, outstanding linemen in their leagues, they’ve been defensive player of the year, they’ve been all-stars and

they have gone on and done well at a national level.” But McCrystal refuses to call it a rebuilding year. “I think we’re going to be a very competitive football team, we’re working toward that end and these young guys are already working hard to be a part of it,” he said. Noah Picton, a quarterback from Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School whose father Dean Picton was also a Rams quarterback, is happy with his choice. “It’s pretty exciting stuff to come in as a fan for many, many years and be a member of this team,” he said. And Picton didn’t consider any other options. “The Rams was it for me, from the beginning, right out of high school I figured, I’m staying here. If they want to keep me, I’m staying here,” he said. Also keeping it in the family, Cohen Richards wasn’t shy to say he chose the Rams because his older brother, Addison Richards, already plays for the team. And Addison is happy for his brother. “It’s his moment, he’s worked hard for this, he put in a lot of time and it’s going to be a lot of fun

to share the field with him,” he said. When looking for players, the Rams coaches, led by offensive coordinator Bernie Schmidt, use a number of methods to find potential recruits. The coaches often follow the players’ careers throughout high school and in many cases have already coached or worked with them at Rams camps and in Regina Minor Football. For out-of-town recruits, the coaches rely primarily on recommendations from colleagues, scouting websites and high school coaches. But in some cases, the players will take matters into their own hands. For example, graduating wide receiver Mark McConkey made the team by submitting his own highlight reel. McCrystal speculates the Rams will need to recruit an additional 15 to 20 players beyond the 12 they already have. This process will happen over the next few months with a focus on recruiting new linemen. The new Rams recruits will take the field for the first time on May 3 to 5 at spring camp.

Whatcha Say?

The Super Bowl is on Feb. 3. Ravens or 49ers?

“The Ravens because they’re the best in the league right now. Ray Lewis is retiring and they got Ray Rice, Joe Flacco is throwing the ball incredibly.”
-Gilbert Musonza

“I started following the 49’ers last year when they made it into the FC championship. I like their team they have a good defense, they have a good run game, they’ve got some decent receivers and I like Alex Smith.”
-Stefan Deregowksi

“The Ravens are going to take it this year just because they beat the Patriots and the Patriots are so rarely beaten. I’m really excited for the Ravens I think that they’re going to crush the 49’ers and that’s exciting.”
-Edward Dodd

Artful and outside the box

Maureen Mugerwa

@MsMugz

The brick walled building located on 11th Avenue gives you a warm feeling when you walk in. You feel as though you just want to stay and this is what founder Carol Cairns wants people to feel. "I wanted to create a space where you could linger. I want people to stay," she said.

Cairns is the executive director of Windhover Artists and Events. She oversees the operations of the Artful Dodger Café and Music Emporium, the TAE Contemporary Art Gallery and gallery store.

The design took her 10 years and she wanted a building that was large enough to incorporate all different forms of art, including music, dance and visual arts. Her vision for the Artful Dodger was "to have this space where a synergy happens so it's not just my vision, but mine and everyone else's," she said.

The Artful Dodger is a "cultural place where people can connect the arts and artistic experiences on a daily level," she said. "Everyone has their own vision for the place they start." There is a restaurant and performance space on the main floor; the art gallery, gallery store and library are also on the main floor. The upstairs is dedicated to arts-related businesses, including two recording studios, a ceramics studio and a photography studio.

Cairns said her inspiration came from the movie version of Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*; she liked the character the Artful



The Artful Dodger is open 8a.m. to 11p.m. Monday to Sunday. Photo by Maureen Mugerwa

Dodger. "The movie was about orphans in a bad situation living in squalor but the Artful Dodger makes the most of the situation," she said. "He saw himself as a survivor and not a victim."

She wants the Artful Dodger to be all inclusive and about a community, quoting the first song in the movie: "consider yourself one of the family."

The Artful Dodger hosts a variety of nights

including salsa night, one of the more popular nights. Other nights hosted by the Artful Dodger are open mic nights, hangover Sundays and performance nights for musicians, to name a few.

In the future, the café will be getting a clay oven and will start serving wood-fired pizzas, Cairns said.

A full dinner menu is also in store for everyone to enjoy. Cairns said that they are

looking into developing the basement, which will be another performance venue that will be membership driven.

She hopes to expand to another building that will compliment this one. For the summer they will have a sidewalk café that customers can look forward to.

For more information on the Artful Dodger you can go to www.artfuldodgerarts.com

Self-published author strikes item off bucket list



Trevor Frieson with his new book, *The Last Item*. Photo by Megan Narsing

Megan Narsing
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"Most people search their entire lives for adrenaline – but true adventure finds you."

This isn't just the tagline for Trevor Frieson's first novel, *The Last Item*. This is also something that plays a key role in Frieson's philosophy of life.

Frieson gathers much of his inspiration and ideas from his own life experiences. Frieson explained he has a bucket list of things

he wants to do before he dies. From living in Australia for a year, to volunteering with orphans in Guatemala, Frieson's list has no bounds. Writing the book was just another item on the list.

Frieson is a first-time self-published author. He had always wanted to write a book and in December, 2011, he began the action-packed tale of Kevin Green. The main character is a young man who was entrusted with a secret from a dead friend. This secret leads him to an adventure in Brazil that he

never expected.

"I went to school in Australia and a couple of my classmates called me Kevin on regular basis. There was another guy there that looked exactly like me and so they called him Trevor. So he's kind of (a) different me in a sense," Frieson said. "You can't be an author and write a book about yourself. So you tweak it a bit and throw in a bunch of elements of fiction and that's it."

Self-publishing was "not difficult at all," Frieson said. He searched out self-publishing

on the Internet and sent his story in to the first publisher he could find with a reasonable price.

"I started writing just because I felt like writing and it turned out better than I expected. So I kept going. So it's either... me as an audience or my close friends. I'm not writing it for anyone else. If I enjoy it, if my friends enjoy it, that's all that I care about."

Currently he's partially through the second and final volume of Kevin Green's adventures with no definite deadline. He also said he has no desire to continue writing after the second book. "I've written a book and most of my friends haven't. That's pretty much an accomplishment to me."

Frieson isn't sure whether his books will ever be published for a commercial audience. For now they are for family and close friends to read and enjoy. However, if it gains interest he doesn't mind sharing a few more copies, for a price. Frieson said he would prefer to release them both to the public once he's tweaked them some more. "An author is never satisfied with his work," he said.

Frieson has also been toying with the idea of selling the story as a screen-play and have it made into a film, but there are no set-in-stone plans for that.

This independent work might not find itself on the bookshelves of corporate stores, but Frieson isn't worried about that. The excitement of publishing his first book is more than enough satisfaction for this avant-garde Indiana Jones.